

Department of Homeland Security
Fiscal Year 2003
Monthly Statistical Report
September FY 2003 Year End Report



Prepared by the Office of Immigration Statistics

October 31, 2003



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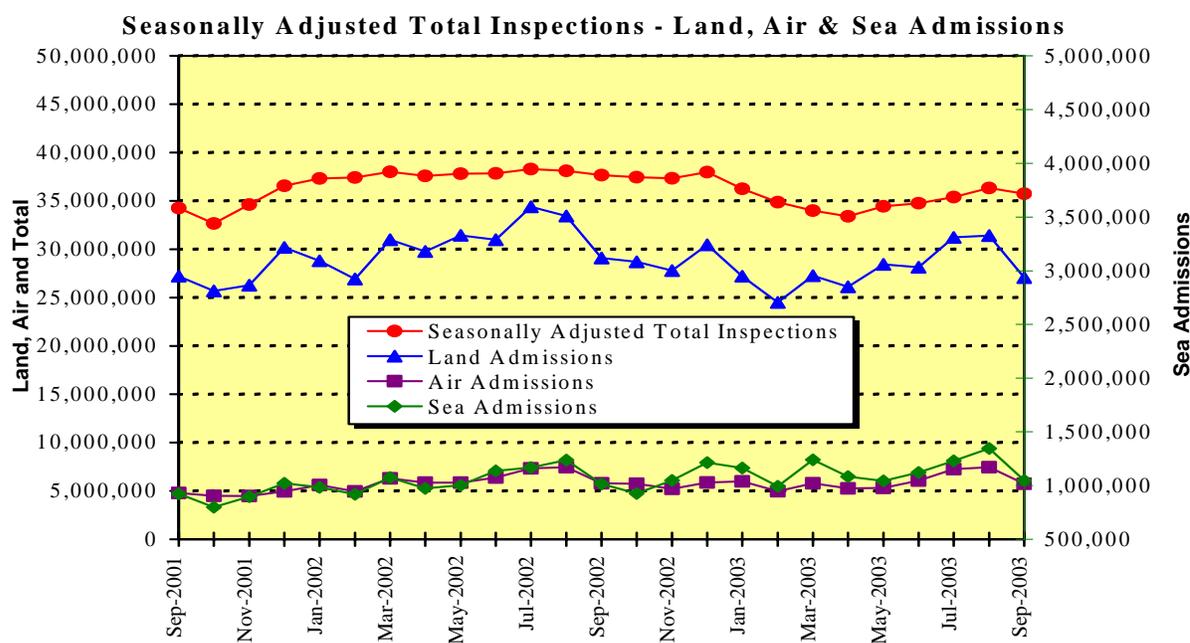
1. Monthly data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of October 29, 2003.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to September 2002, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States decreased 6 percent. Air admissions decreased 1 percent and land admissions decreased 7 percent compared to the previous September. Sea admissions increased 3 percent and inadmissibles decreased 7 percent compared to September 2002. For fiscal year 2003, total inspections decreased 4 percent, while land admissions decreased by 6 percent. By contrast, air and sea admissions increased by 2 and 10 percent, respectively.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2002
	Sep-2003	Sep-2002	%Change	FY 2003 to Date	FY 2002 to Date	%Change	
Total Inspections	34,193,202	36,210,318	-6	427,684,262	444,686,363	-4	444,686,363
Air Admitted	5,753,596	5,807,060	-1	70,689,709	69,470,866	2	69,470,866
Land Admitted	27,065,316	29,082,941	-7	338,291,225	357,986,738	-6	357,986,738
Sea Admitted	1,049,310	1,014,307	3	13,458,980	12,224,667	10	12,224,667
Inadmissible	53,627	57,867	-7	673,840	733,615	-8	733,615

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- September 2003 total inspections decreased about 6,499,000 compared to August 2003. The same comparison for last fiscal year showed a decrease of about 6,411,000.
- About 13 million U.S. citizens were admitted at DHS ports of entry during September 2003, compared to approximately 21 million aliens admitted during the same month. The above categories of admission include individuals who make multiple entries, for example, citizens who leave and reenter the United States multiple times, permanent residents who make multiple entries, or aliens who hold non-immigrant visas or border crossing cards and commute back and forth each week from Canada or Mexico.
- The total inadmissible count for September 2003 was 53,627, a 7 percent decrease compared to September 2002. Inadmissible persons include aliens referred to secondary inspection who withdraw, are refused entry, are paroled in, or are referred to an Immigration Judge for a removal hearing. Also included are expedited cases where an alien can withdraw, or receives an expedited removal order, or is referred for a credible fear interview.
- The number of inspections has not reached the levels experienced before September 11, 2001. The seasonally adjusted inspections decreased 23 percent between August 2001 and October 2001, but have increased 7 percent since then.

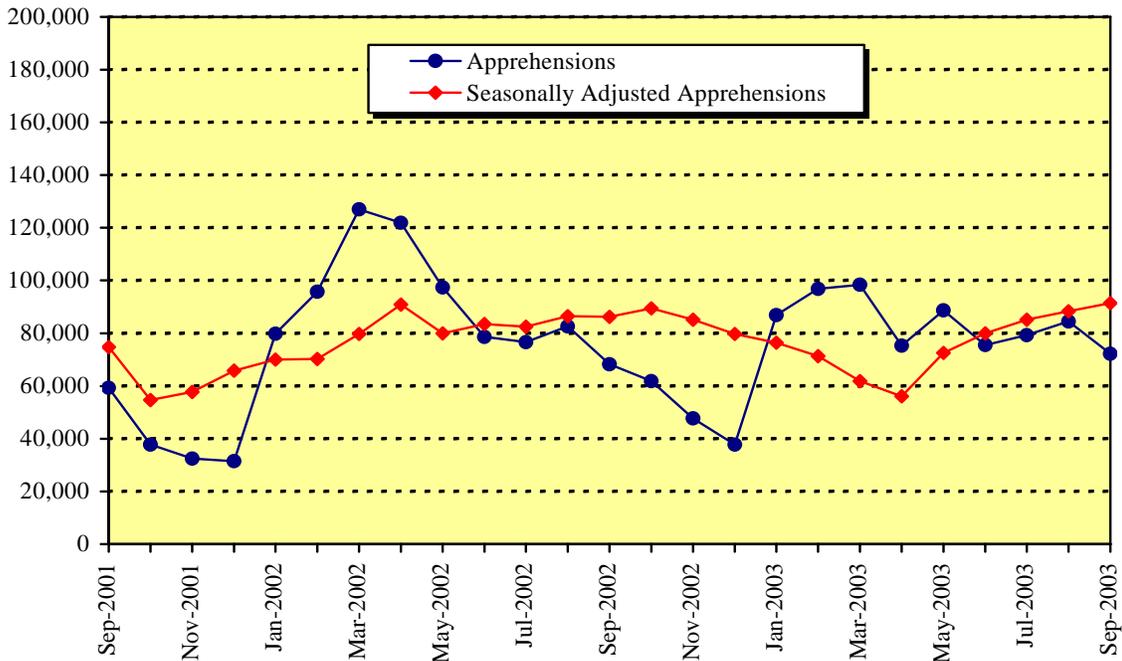
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The U.S. Border Patrol made 72,176 apprehensions along the southwest border during September 2003, a 6 percent increase when compared to September 2002. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents increased by 3 percent from a year ago to 65,737. For fiscal year 2003, apprehensions were down 3 percent and voluntary returns were down 5 percent compared to fiscal year 2002.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2002
	Sep-2003	Sep-2002	%Change	FY 2003 to Date	FY 2002 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	72,176	68,263	6	905,065	929,809	-3	929,809
Voluntary Returns	65,737	63,614	3	836,672	884,380	-5	884,380

Data Source: PAS G-23.8 & G-23.18

Southwest Border Total Apprehensions



- Seasonally adjusted apprehensions increased in September 2003 by 4 percent when compared to August 2003, the fifth monthly increase since April 2003.
- In FY 2002, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 21,750, a decrease of 765 when compared to the previous year. For fiscal year 2003, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 31,049, an increase of 43 percent compared to fiscal year 2002. Of the 31,049 Central Americans apprehended in FY 2003, 45 percent were Honduran, 30 percent were El Salvadoran, 22 percent were Guatemalan, and 2 percent were Nicaraguan.

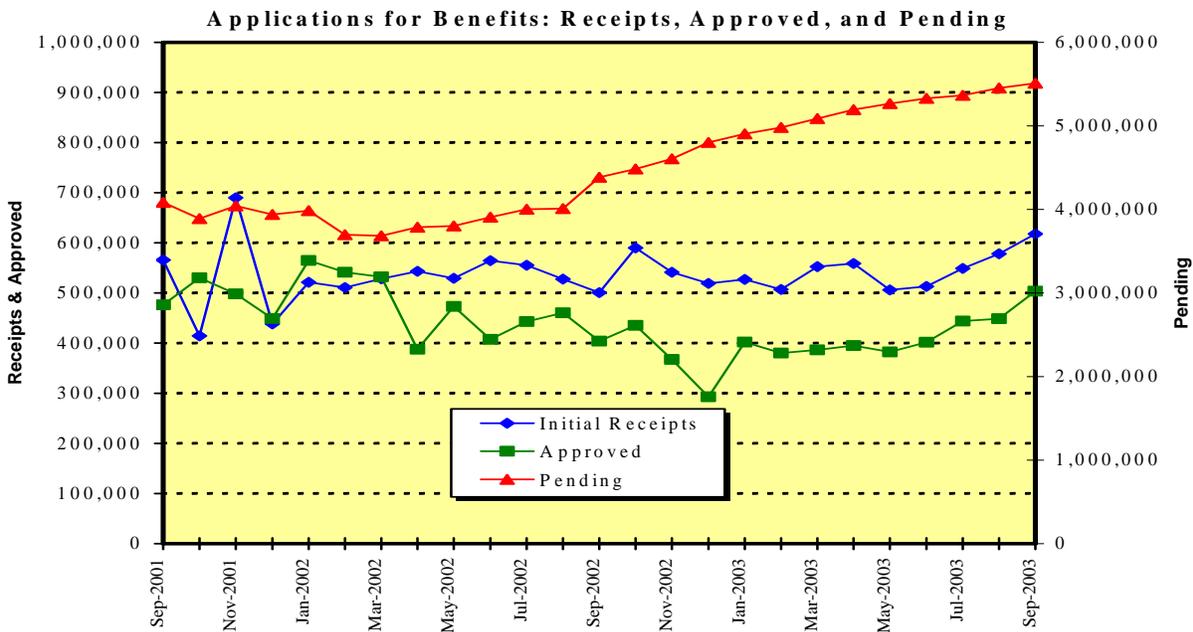
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in September 2003 increased 23 percent compared to the number received in September 2002. September approvals were up 25 percent, while denials decreased by 2 percent when compared to September 2002. For fiscal year 2003 receipts increased 4 percent, while approvals decreased 15 percent compared to fiscal year 2002.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2002</i>
	<i>Sep-2003</i>	<i>Sep-2002</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2003 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2002 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Initial Receipts¹	617,970	501,047	23	6,559,773	6,324,496	4	6,324,496
Approved	503,335	403,929	25	4,840,433	5,690,938	-15	5,690,938
Denied	62,052	63,603	-2	667,755	635,557	5	635,557
Pending¹	5,510,553	4,383,154	26	5,510,553	4,383,154	26	4,383,154

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 2,900 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Total immigration application pending cases reached 5,510,553, a 26 percent increase when compared to September 2002.
- Major volumes in September 2003 receipts include: 257,781 I-765 employment authorizations; 62,616 I-130 relative petitions; 60,562 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; and 50,428 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of September 2003 include: 1,889,779 I-130 relative petitions; 1,238,371 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 764,185 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements; and 460,908 I-765 employment authorizations.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

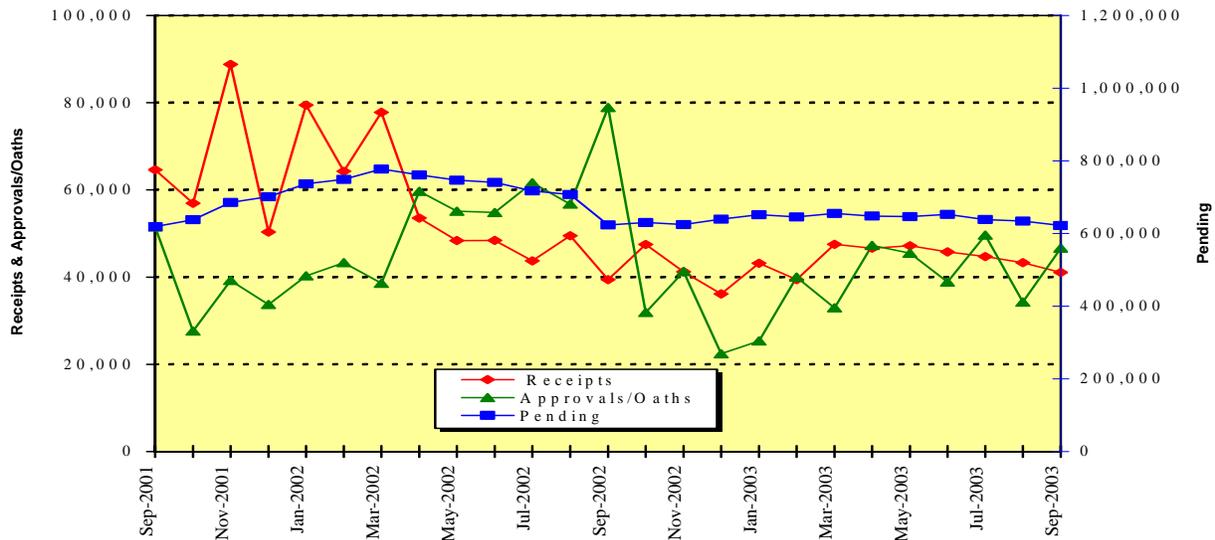
Naturalization receipts in September 2003 increased 4 percent while approvals/oaths were down 41 percent and denials were down 50 percent when compared to September 2002. During fiscal year 2003, receipts were down 25 percent while 455,884 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship, a decrease of 23 percent compared to fiscal year 2002.

	<i>Month¹</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2002</i>
	<i>Sep-2003</i>	<i>Sep-2002</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2003 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2002 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Receipts	41,112	39,432	4	523,740	700,649	-25	700,649
Approvals/Oaths	46,612	78,920	-41	455,884	589,728	-23	589,728
Denied	10,536	21,137	-50	91,599	139,779	-34	139,779
Pending	621,794	623,519	0	621,794	623,519	0	623,519

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 13,000 N-400s filed but not data entered.

**N - 4 0 0 N a t u r a l i z a t i o n A p p l i c a t i o n s
R e c e i p t s , O a t h s / A p p r o v e d , a n d P e n d i n g**



- The number of pending cases decreased less than 1 percent compared to one year ago. Pending cases have steadily decreased from April 2002.
- September 2002 naturalization approvals/oaths increased by about 22,000 compared to August 2002. The same comparison for September 2003 showed an increase of about 12,400.

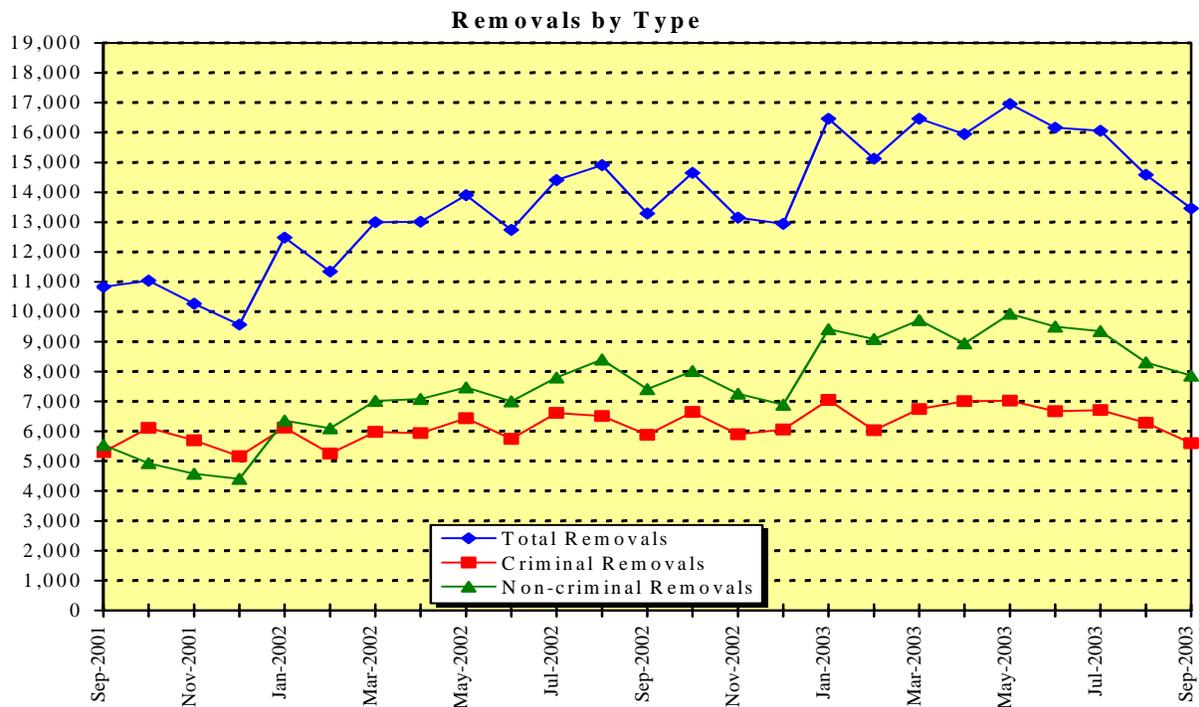
REMOVALS

Total removals for September increased 1 percent compared to the same month a year before. In September 2003, DHS removed 13,462 aliens from the United States, 5,598 of these aliens were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2002
	Sep-2003*	Sep-2002	%Change	FY 2003 to Date	FY 2002 to Date	%Change	
Deportable Inadmissible	3,304	3,858	-14	48,120	46,111	4	46,111
Total Removals	13,462	13,293	1	181,979	149,985	21	149,985
Criminal Removals	5,598	5,882	-5	77,710	71,447	9	71,447
Non-criminal Removals	7,864	7,411	6	104,269	78,538	33	78,538

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- The current month's statistics are preliminary. Historically there have been significant upward revisions in the statistics for three months after the initial reporting period. The August statistic for total removals has increased 6 percent (862 removals) since the preliminary number was released last month.
- Preliminary data indicate that total removals in fiscal year 2003 have increased 21 percent compared to fiscal year 2002. In fiscal year 2003, expedited removals have increased 23 percent compared to fiscal year 2002 and other types of removals have increased 21 percent. Non-expedited removals are 77 percent of total removals. In fiscal year 2002 non-expedited removals were 77 percent of total removals.
- Preliminary data indicate that removals of criminal aliens (including expedited) have increased 9 percent in fiscal year 2003. Non-expedited criminal removals increased 8 percent.

INVESTIGATIONS

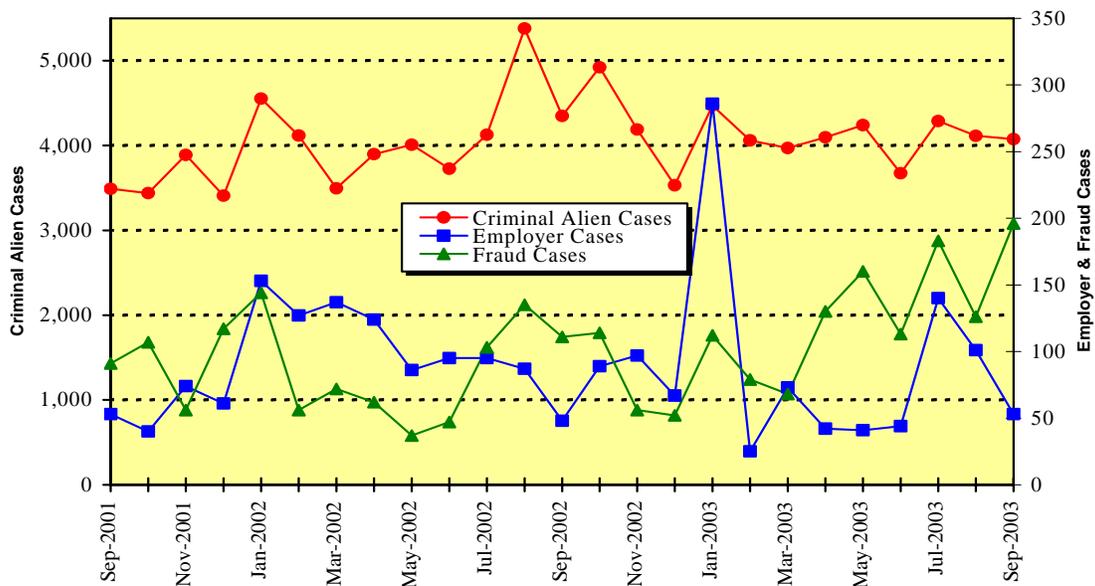
Successful completions of criminal alien cases for September 2003 decreased 6 percent when compared to September 2002, while the same comparison for employer completions showed an increase of 10 percent. Fraud completions in September 2003 increased 77 percent when compared to the same month last year, while smuggling completions increased by 7 cases or 23 percent. For fiscal year 2003, criminal alien cases increased by 3 percent, employer cases decreased by 6 percent, and fraud and smuggling cases increased by 33 and 28 percent, respectively, when compared to fiscal year 2002.

Achieved Objectives	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2002
	Sep-2003	Sep-2002	%Change	FY 2003 to Date	FY 2002 to Date	%Change	
Criminal Alien Cases	4,076	4,350	-6	49,639	48,390	3	48,390
Employer Cases	53	48	10	1,058	1,127	-6	1,127
Fraud Cases	196	111	77	1,389	1,047	33	1,047
Smuggling Cases	38	31	23	426	332	28	332

Data Source: PAS G-23.19 & 19.1

Note: FY 2003 data does not include casework completed by Las Vegas

Criminal, Worksite, and Fraud Cases Successfully Completed



- Definitions:** Achieved Objectives: a “closed” case where an adverse action has been taken against the target of the case, such as cessation of activity, conviction, removal, denial, disbarment, injunction, restitution/forfeiture or other objectives that were identified in the course of investigation (e.g., systemic or regulatory issues resolved, etc.). Case Types: Criminal alien cases include large-scale organizations engaged in ongoing criminal activity and individual aliens convicted of a crime such as drug trafficking or terrorism. Employer cases include investigations that target employers who knowingly hire or who continue to employ illegal aliens. Fraud cases include marriage fraud, immigration benefit fraud, Employer Sanctions document fraud, and entitlement fraud. Smuggling cases target persons or entities that bring, transport, harbor, or smuggle illegal aliens into or within the United States.
- Employer completions increased sharply in January 2003 due largely to the addition of the Worksite Enforcement National Interest/Investigations in San Diego at the time of the NFL’s Super Bowl.

ASYLUM

The number of applications for asylum in September 2003 decreased 32 percent compared to the number filed in September 2002. The pending caseload was 14 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2002
	Sep-2003	Sep-2002	%Change	FY 2003 to Date	FY 2002 to Date	%Change	
Cases Filed	3,372	4,937	-32	48,656	66,577	-27	66,577
Approved	814	1,580	-48	12,176	19,611	-38	19,611
Denied	1,088	1,453	-25	13,119	15,734	-17	15,734
Otherwise Closed	4,045	6,172	-34	49,736	32,527	53	32,527
Referred to IJ	1,187	1,553	-24	15,687	18,529	-15	18,529
Pending	262,102	303,828	-14	262,102	303,828	-14	303,828

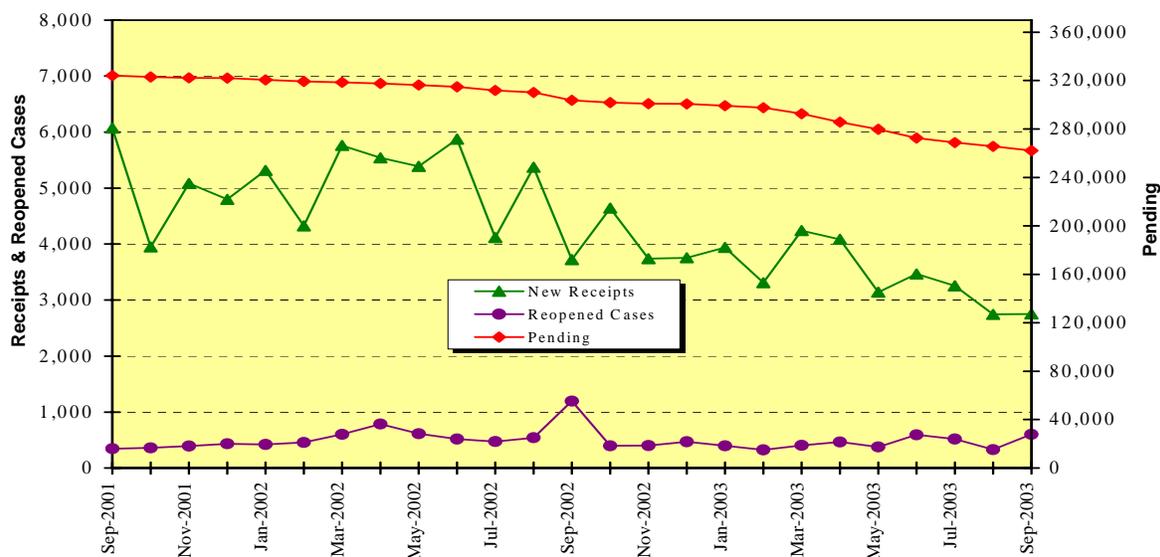
Immigration Judges at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Cases filed - includes both new and reopened applications.

Denied - includes applications rejected under the one-year filing deadline.

Data Source: RAPS

Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending



- Nationals of People's Republic of China submitted the most asylum applications in September 2003, followed by Haiti and Colombia.
- About 85 percent of the pending caseload involves aliens whose cases may be adjudicated under one of the provisions of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) or the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (HRIFA) rather than through an asylum process. The pending caseload excluding those special-group cases is approximately 38,300 cases.
- The substantial growth in cases otherwise closed is mostly attributable to the large number of cases adjudicated under NACARA.